(c) whether such steps would keep large number of deserving sections out of the PDS benefits;

(d) whether Government received representations from States to review the decision; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty in the country. The Commission estimates poverty across all the States by following a uniform methodology and releases the poverty estimates from time to time. When TPDS was introduced in 1997, the poverty estimates released by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 were available. According to those estimates, percentage of population below poverty line was 36%. Population estimates made by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner for 1995 were also available at that time. The Government decided to use poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 and population estimates of 1995 for working out the number of BPL households in the country for the purpose of making allocations of foodgrains under the TPDS. This number of households was 5.96 crores.

Subsequently, in November, 2000, the Government decided to use the population estimates of 1st March, 2000 instead of 1995 for working out the number of BPL households in the country for the purpose of TPDS allocations. The number of BPL households in the country worked out on this basis is 6.52 crores. The Government has continued to use this number of BPL households for the allocations.

In March, 2007, the Planning Commission has released poverty estimates for 2004-05 which are comparable with the poverty estimates of 1993-04. According to these estimates, in the country as a whole the percentage of population below poverty line was 27.5%.

The Government has received requests from some State Governments for accepting higher number of BPL households for allocation of foodgrains. However, the Government has continued to use the number of BPL households worked out on the basis of poverty estimates of 1993-94 projected on the population estimate of March, 2000.

Vacancies in Railways

*89. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in Railways, which are reserved for SC, ST and OBC categories zonal Railways and post-wise; and

(b) the reasons for such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) The number of shortfall vacancies of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) as on 31.03.2007 in recruitment and promotion categories of Group 'C' and 'D' on Indian Railways (Zone-wise) are as under:

Railway	Recruitment						Promotion			
	Group 'C'			Group 'D'			Group 'C'		Group 'D'	
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	SC	ST
Central	104	141	270	34	85	197	430	753	117	312
Eastern	111	160	451	271	215	643	26	157	96	100
Northern	0	0	223	0	0	217	47	613	9	342
North Eastern	186	258	146	118	213	142	271	725	163	523
Northeast Frontier	50	61	167	88	38	731	65	121	83	44
Southern	160	138	367	252	125	207	909	1638	277	898
South Central	152	205	372	120	195	329	770	1197	184	850
South Eastern	23	35	29	36	24	30	56	34	23	22
Western	179	121	359	194	100	361	968	629	592	425
East Central	474	244	493	126	181	166	585	489	213	422
East Coast	299	154	307	377	275	832	390	327	1	224
North Central	5	132	54	28	134	0	14	222	23	424
North Western	30	25	107	31	20	73	278	227	90	141
West Central	86	59	169	170	176	530	204	231	32	118
South Western	51	40	74	34	45	168	405	297	83	182
South East Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	209	190	152	121
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	0	7	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diesel Loco Modernisation Works	2	1	30	0	5	14	89	99	26	28
Rail Coach Factory	9	3	20	0	9	21	6	203	13	23
Integral Coach Factory	7	6	18	4	13	36	25	209	0	116
Diesel Locomotive Works	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	126	19	36
Rail Wheel Factory	4	1	7	2	13	27	5	8	26	23
Research Design and Standards Organisation	8	11	38	0	-1	-1	32	38	8	14
Metro/Kolkata	10	16	19	19	7	7	14	53	15	11
TOTAL:	1950	1818	3734	1904	1872	4730	5826	8586	2245	5399

(b) Accrual and filling up of vacancies including those reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes is a continuous process. There is generally no difficulty in getting adequate Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and other Backward Class to fill up the posts reserved for them in non-technical popular categories. However, candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are not becoming available in technical, safety and para-medical categories to the extent of vacancies reserved for them. This is mainly due to in-adequate response. Further, in case of diminishing/redundant categories, fresh intake of manpower including in reserved vacancies are not undertaken. Reserved posts of OBCs also remains unfilled due to the Apex court's order that not more than 50% of the vacancies occurring in a year including the carried forward vacancies can be filled up by way of reservation.

Testing facilities for spurious durgs

*90. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of World Health Organization (WHO) 35 per cent of drugs sold in the country are spurious;

(b) whether only seven laboratories are functioning in the country to check drug samples and if so, the action taken to set up such laboratories in every State;

(c) whether there are about 11,000 chemist shops in Delhi and only 29 Drug Inspectors to inspect these shops;

(d) the total number of drug samples lifted from these shops during the last three years and how many of them found to be spurious; and

(e) the stringent measures taken by Government to check availability of spurious drugs in Delhi and other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMA DOSS): (a) to (e) WHO has denied having carried out any study on the extent of spurious drugs, in the country.

There are six labs of the Central Government for testing of drugs samples collected by Central Drugs Inspectors. A Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory, Chandigarh, is being set up. Apart from the Central Labs, States also have their own drug labs for testing of drug samples.

The Central Government under the World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project is assisting State Drugs Control Departments to augment and strengthen their drug testing laboratories.

Details of laboratories are enclosed as Statement I and II (*See* below).

There are about 11,000 chemist shops in NCT of Delhi (retail and wholesale) and there are 29 Drugs Inspectors in position. Details of the samples tested in the last three years are as under: